

Threshing Cotton Bolls.

Editors Progressive Farmer:

When the sample copy of The Progressive Farmer was received, I was then taking three farm journals, one of which I commenced taking way back in the 60's (Southern Cultivator), but an appeal from my dear old State could not go unheeded, hence I respond with my subscription for 1904, and am pleased with your valuable journal, and wish it were in the hands of every farmer in the State. The account of threshing late bolls, "A Novelty in Cotton Culture" in your issue of February 7th, called forth this letter. A few years after the Civil War I read an article in the New York Herald giving an account of Ralston's machine on exhibition in Augusta or Atlanta (I think the former). When attached to ordinary cotton gin, it prepared the cotton for gin, the bolls having been gathered from the stalk (instead of picked in the usual manner), dumped in the Ralston attachment and conveyed by carrier to gin. The product sold for one to one and one-half cents per pound more than cotton picked in the usual way by hand and ginned. We could make more cotton than we could get picked out, and I thought there was big money in cotton for me with the Ralston machine. I cut the article out and sent it to the editor of the Southern Cultivator with request for information. The editor had never heard of such a machine. It was a hoax. The article was well-written. Now if we could find an inventive genius who could carry out the Ralston idea, he would reap a rich reward and the farmer could house all the cotton he could make without additional labor.

With best wishes for The Progressive Farmer.

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Farmer and Manufacturer Should Combine Against Speculators

Mr. Jno. P. Allison, of Concord, writes from Lake Charles, La. (where he is taking a vacation) to The Progressive Farmer as follows:

"I met Mr. Harvie Jordan in Atlanta on my way here, and he is very enthusiastic on the cotton situation. He is going out this summer in the interest of the Southern Cotton Growers' Protective Association, and I asked him to come to North Carolina, and he consented to do so. I hope we can get good crowds to hear him; he seems thoroughly impressed, (and I agree with him) that it is more important now than ever that the farmers should look after their interests by organizing, and protect themselves from the speculators. They have been with us lately, and helped us out of a bad situation, but the farmer must not think they did it for love—it happened to be an opportunity for them to make money out of the manufacturers, so they became friendly with the farmers, and the very fact of their blowing hot and cold ought to put the farmers and manufacturers on their guard. I hope they will see their errors of the past, and prepare against them,

now that they are better able than ever.

"There should be no antagonism between the planters and manufacturers. They have many interests in common. High prices for cotton is better for both; fluctuating prices detrimental to both. The latter condition is the life of the dealer, and the last few years have demonstrated these facts fully to my mind, and I hope enough will see it to prevent a repetition of the cotton prices of a few years ago.

"I am glad to see the great improvement in your paper since the new owners have taken charge; not that I found fault before, but you are enlarging the scope of its usefulness, and I hope it will get the increased patronage it deserves."

We hail with joy the report of a "farmers' union" being organized in our community. We are not a prophet, but we will foretell a little good that might be derived from such an organization. As we understand, the object is to help each other in life—a thing we all should do, for no man liveth to himself. We are at a time and place in life when we can do much for the benefit of each other if we will work in unison, for "in union there is strength." A few of our leading farmers met at Walker school-house on January 23d to consider plans for the organization. A committee was appointed to draw up a form to govern its workings. Buying supplies and fertilizers will be one of the subjects considered at the next meeting. The union asks other neighborhoods near by to form themselves into unions and have mutual concurrence with us.—Waxhaw Cor. Monroe Enquirer.

One firm in Fayetteville, N. C., slaughtered during one week recently 15,000 turkeys on a New York order. The turkeys were brought in droves of from 300 to 500 from many points in the surrounding country and went through the hands of about forty employees, picking on an average 150 fowls in ten hours.

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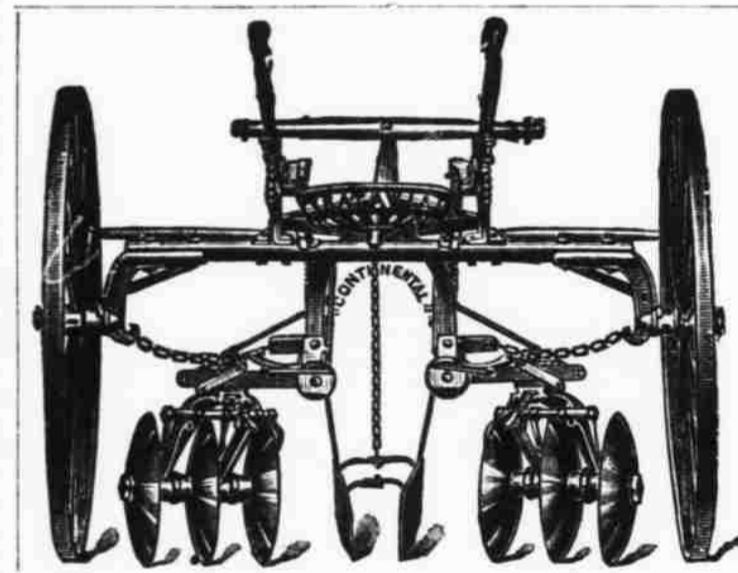
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